Minutes
Oyster Creek TMDL Steering Committee
May 13, 2004

Stakeholders Present:
Al Abramczyk—Sugar Lakes Homeowners Association
Mack Chapman (replacement for David Sauer)—Gulf Coast Water Authority
Howard Christian—City of Sugar Land
Millie Holifield (replacement for Lee Dorger)—City of Missouri City
David Jalowy—Fort Bend County Drainage District
Martha Martin—Imperial Sugar
Lisa Rogers—Sierra Club
Joe Taylor—Quail Valley Utility District

Stakeholders Absent:
Tricia Bradbury—Keep Sugar Land Beautiful
Warren Davis—Brazos River Authority
John Gaudin—Texas Department of Criminal Justice

Others Present: John Ellis—Quail Valley Utility District; David Marzand—Sugar Lakes Homeowners Association

Support Staff: TCEQ—Jason Leifester; TIAER—Larry Hauck, Heather Jones; Parsons Engineering—Kirk Dean, Chris Ryon

Administrative Issues
The meeting of the Upper Oyster Creek Dissolved Oxygen and Bacteria TMDL Watershed Steering Committee met Thursday, May 13th from 1:30-3:30 pm at Sugar Land Community Center in Sugar Land, Texas. Larry Hauck, TIAER, opened the meeting and self-introductions were made. The committee approved the minutes from the September 11, 2003 meeting.

TMDL Refresher and Dissolved Oxygen Update
Larry Hauck, TIAER, reviewed the TMDL process, the stakeholder's role, and provided information on the specifics of why Oyster Creek is considered impacted (all of which have been presented and discussed at previous meetings).

Bar charts of dissolved oxygen (DO) surveys performed to date were presented. The DO assessment surveys will be completed in August 2004.

Bacteria Update
Larry Hauck, TIAER, gave an overview of the sampling that confirmed bacterial problems in the watershed and presented *E. coli* data results from monitoring events occurring from October 2002 to August 2003. It was noted that there is a definite

correlation between rainfall and higher bacteria levels. This phenomenon is likely due to nonpoint source pollution that occurs with rainfall-induced runoff.

Bacteria Source Tracking

Kirk Dean of Parsons Engineering provided an update on the bacteria source tracking (BST) portion of the project. Sampling dates and preliminary results were presented. Parsons solicited help from those in attendance in obtaining additional known-source fecal samples. Multiple samples from known contributors are being sought to help in library development. Several stakeholders volunteered to assist in helping obtain access to ranches, veterinarians, county animal shelters, etc.

Bacteria sampling will continue through December 2004. Water samples that are being analyzed for bacteria are being sent to a laboratory in Houston who then send *E. coli* isolates to another laboratory for ribotyping. Fecal samples and *E. coli* isolates are being analyzed by a ribotyping method at a laboratory in the state of Washington. Both laboratories were selected through a competitive bid process.

Meeting Wrap-up

Dissolved oxygen monitoring will be completed in August 2004. The data will be analyzed using TCEQ's assessment methodology to determine whether the current dissolved oxygen levels support aquatic life use, and that analysis should be completed during the fall of 2004. The results of the bacterial source tracking study will likely be available during the spring of 2005.

Larry Hauck explained that stakeholder involvement will likely become more important as the project enters the next stages. As conclusions are drawn, stakeholders will be responsible for providing input for implementation plan development.

Stakeholders mentioned some structural changes in the drainage system that may potentially impact Oyster Creek. David Jalowy, Fort Bend County Drainage District, offered to get copies of the design for the project team.

Howard Christian, City of Sugar Land, brought up the idea of conducting sediment sampling for bacteria. This subject matter was discussed regarding pros and cons though no decision was reached as to the viability of such monitoring for this study.